

I oppose loosening the rules designed to promote and protect diversity of media ownership. These rules were adopted to ensure that the public would receive a diverse range of viewpoints from the media, and not simply the opinions of a handful of media conglomerates. The cable ownership

cap is a crucial element of our democratic media, and it should not be weakened.

These proposed rule changes further compound the extrapolation of media concentration accomplished by the most recent Viacom and AOL mergers. PLEASE consider the ramifications to the public interest before you grant the requests of lobbyists. Today, the bottleneck for most news, music, movies, television, book, and increasingly internet media is controlled by the same handful of vertically integrated conglomerates. They determine the nature of, and have great influence on the course of our national story. To boot, we have given away billions in bandwidth, and it is hard to see after so many years just how we have benefited--all we have gotten in exchange for this giveaway are increasing access costs, while the companies involved make record profits for their stockholders. History has taught us if anything, that a lessening of competition hurts the consumer. These proposed rule changes will make technology even more inaccessible to lower income families, and this threatens our!

cohesiveness as a nation as a time when we need it most. Thank you for your consideration.